

7th & 8th Grade Class Notes

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- Learning about religion requires an entirely different language than we are used to
 - “Sacred Scripture”, “Sacrament”
 - We should learn to get comfortable using these words in everyday life, in order to make connections later on in life and in the world
- It takes a long spiritual journey for your religion to match up in your heart and your brain
 - Faith is in our hearts
 - Religion is mostly in our minds
 - Knowing about Jesus and believing in Jesus are two different things
- Every choice that we make is for the good or the “not so good”
- The Bible is a religious book, rather than a historical book or science book
 - Interpretation of times no one could remember, holy word of God
 - Teachings from old times have the same message as the ones do today, but we must approach it differently depending on the time
- CCC - Catechism of the Catholic Church
- M-Theory - (Multiverse theory) We live in many universes (at least 9, could be many highest)

Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons? - CREATION vs. EVOLUTION

- What is the Catholic position concerning belief or disbelief in evolution?
 - The question cannot really be answered, but there are parameters to what beliefs are acceptable to the Catholic Church
 - Existence of Immortal souls?
 - Poly-genism vs. Mono-genesis
 - Fulguration - creative action of God
- Were we created or evolved?
- Are humans coincidental? Did we happen *just* on the basis of evolution by accident?
- If we come from Adam and Eve, and they had 2 sons, Able and Cain, the story of the continuation of having kids does not make sense!
 - Husband and Wife vs. Wife and son?
 - Brings the discussion of “Poly-genism” or “Mono-genesis”
- Poly-genism - The idea that we come from many different people, as opposed to just one couple
- Mono-genesis - The idea that everyone comes from one couple, Adam and Eve
 - Depending on which idea you agree with, how far back does our lineage go?
 - Many believe we all originated from Africa 200,000 years ago, and each one of our ancestors leads back to there
- “The Theory of Darwin, true or not, is not necessarily atheistic; on the contrary, it may simply be suggesting a larger idea of divine providence and skill” - Cardinal John Henry Newman
- “New scientific knowledge has led us to the conclusion that the Theory of Evolution is no longer a mere hypothesis.” - Pope John Paul II
- The Catholic Church believes that evolution presupposes creation; creation situates itself in the light of evolution as an event which extends itself through time as a continual creation in which God becomes visible to the eyes of the believer as creator of Heaven and Earth
- “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth” - John Paul II
- Faith without reason leads to superstition, and reason without faith leads straight to nihilism and relativism
- CREATION & EVOLUTION WORK TOGETHER!

Christianity is “Radically Creationist”

- God acts as a parent to the universe; nurturing, encouraging, and working with it
- God wills the universe, every second, not just when it was created - Saint Augustine of Hippo
 - He only stops when he decides it is time for the world to end